



Afternoon Alert - Wednesday, October 11, 2017

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## HEADLINES

### Noon news

Most networks gave top play to reports that Shinmoedake, a volcano in the Kirishima mountain range in Kyushu, erupted this morning for the first time in six years. The Japan Meteorological Agency has raised Shinmoedake's volcanic alert level to 3. Fuji TV led with a report that early voting for the Lower House election began today.

## INTERNATIONAL

### Two U.S. B-1B bombers fly near Korean Peninsula

NTV and Fuji TV reported at noon that the U.S. military announced on Tuesday that two B-1B Lancer bombers conducted night-time flight training with Japanese and South Korean forces near the Korea Peninsula on Tuesday. According to the Pacific Air Forces, it was the first time for U.S. bombers to train with Japanese and South Korean F-15 bombers at night. The networks said this was also the first time for U.S. B-1B bombers to fly in the region since Sept. 24, when the ROK government said North Korean radar failed to detect the bombers.

### U.S. expert says denuclearization of North Korea not possible

TV Asahi reported at noon that Brookings Institution Senior Fellow Jonathan Pollack said it is not realistic to make North Korea abolish its nuclear weapons and that it should be treated as a nuclear power. Pollack was quoted as saying: "I do not think denuclearization is at all realistic under the prevailing circumstances.... We need to limit the effects of political or military nuclearization." The network said that Pollack, an advisor on East Asia policy under the Obama administration, expressed the view that North Korea will not agree to hold dialogue on denuclearization. The network added that while the U.S. thinks it is important to continue to apply pressure on North Korea,

Pollack criticized President Trump's extreme remarks by saying they are giving North Korea justification to move forward with its nuclear development.

### **President Carter seeking to meet with North Korean leader**

NTV reported at noon on the finding that according to an unnamed official who met with former U.S. President Carter last month, the former president is seeking to visit North Korea and hold a meeting with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un. The network noted that former President Carter also recently wrote in an op-ed that the U.S. should send a delegation to North Korea and conduct peace negotiations. The network added, however, that it remains unclear whether such a visit will actually be realized given that the Trump administration is refusing to hold any dialogue with the North. The network also quoted DOS spokesperson Nauert as saying on Tuesday: "One would certainly need a waiver to go to North Korea." She also reportedly stressed that if the former president were to visit North Korea, he would not be representing the U.S. government.

### **Terrorist groups targeting refugee camps**

NHK's "Close-up Gendai +" reported that the number of refugees worldwide, including internally displaced people, has reached about 68 million, adding that Africa is in a state of crisis due to a surge in the number of refugees. A major refugee camp in Kenya was recently shut down by the government because the camp has become a hotbed of terrorism. Terrorists are reportedly seizing relief supplies provided to refugee camps and reselling them to earn money. The UNHCR is alarmed because 240,000 refugees have been forced to leave the camp. Moves are also spreading in Europe to reject refugees following President Trump's executive order to ban refugees. The U.S. used to receive the largest number of refugees under the UN Third-Country Resettlement Program. The amount of financial assistance provided to refugees in Africa is decreasing compared with those in the Middle East. The program reported that the number of refugees has reached one million in South Sudan alone, adding that the UNHCR is trying to help refugees find jobs and become financially independent.

- [S. Korea, U.S., Japan vice foreign ministers to meet in Seoul](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Trump allegedly asked Abe to "protect U.S. forces" from North Korean attacks](#) (THEMIS)
- [Retired Russian military officer says DPRK has 20 to 30 nuclear bombs](#) (Asahi)
- [Nikai proposes new diplomatic approach to China](#) (Mainichi)
- [Mitsui & Co. engaged in secret maneuvering on projects in Northern Territories](#) (Sentaku)

- [Prime minister's schedule on Oct. 9–10, 2017](#) (Nikkei)
- [Number of candidates in 2017 House of Representatives election](#) (The Mainichi)
- [Strength of political parties in House of Representatives before official campaigning](#) (Yomiuri)
- [2017 Lower House Election / Official campaigning kicks off / Public to evaluate Abe's half decade in power](#) (The Japan News)
- [With 275 votes, LDP will secure two-thirds of LH seats](#) (Sankei)
- [FOCUS: Odds may now favor Abe on Constitution change as rival shares views](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Consumption tax rate for food, daily necessities will "definitely" be reduced: CCS Suga](#) (Sankei)
- [Parties ignore people's future "pain" in campaign pledges](#) (Nikkei)
- [Tokyo No. 11, No. 24 districts turning into battlegrounds for proxy war between Abe and Koike](#) (Nikkei)
- [Differences emerging among JCP, Constitutional Democratic Party, SDP](#) (Yomiuri)
- [A record 17.71% of candidates in LH election are women](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Survey of newspaper editorials on Koike's Party of Hope](#) (Sankei)

## SECURITY

### **Government ordered to pay damages for noise pollution at Yokota AB**

NHK reported this afternoon that the Tachikawa branch of the Tokyo District Court has ordered the GOJ to pay a total of about 610 million yen to compensate for noise pollution in the past in a suit filed by around 1,000 residents near the Yokota base. The network also said, however, that the ruling rejected demands for the suspension of nighttime and early morning flights by U.S. and SDF aircraft and future compensation.

## ECONOMY

- [Kobe Steel scandal expands beyond aluminum, copper](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Kobe Steel may also have fabricated data for iron powder: source](#) (Kyodo News)

- [TEPCO and Chubu Electric joint venture announces start of LNG production in Australia](#) (Asahi)
- [METI to renew expert panel that monitors TEPCO's reforms](#) (Nikkei)
- [21 Japanese, German institutions team up to test autonomous driving technology](#) (Nikkei)
- [Agency calls on prefectures to voluntarily refrain from bluefin tuna fishing](#) (Yomiuri)

#### SCIENCE

- [Japan launches 4th GPS-improving quasi-zenith satellite](#) (Kyodo News)
- [JRTT to collect 20 billion by issuing green bonds from late October](#) (Nikkei)

#### SOCIETY

- [Interview with Keidanren executive on Japan-U.S. cooperation for women's empowerment](#) (Asahi)

